

ICE BREAKER



ICE BREAKER MAGAZINE

ICE BREAKER magazine is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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EDITORIAL

By the time this edition of Ice Breaker is distributed, plans for the forthcoming Mid-winter Festival will be fine-tuned and Tasmanians can look forward to another exciting range of events embracing Antarctic themes. Congratulations for this year's program must go to David Laskey, the new Festival Co-ordinator, who also enlivened the imagery used on the Festival's promotional material and website (www.antarctic-tasmania.info/)

Further congratulations must go to Lara Giddings for her promotion to Tasmania's Minister of Economic Development and to Greg Johannes, former head of Antarctic Tasmania, who was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Department of Economic Development. Well-established Antarctic connections with members of government organisations are of great benefit to any Polar Network plans. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting Federal Government approval and funding for the Falcon 900 jet for the Hobart to Casey Station airlink, although the CASA 212s will be in operation this year.

IGLOO UPDATE: Within 5 weeks of all polar field equipment moulds moving up to Penguin Fibreglass, an order for 2 Igloos was received from Falls Creek Ski Lifts in Victoria. Apparently they have a children's program involving 'Pete the Snow Dragon' who usually lives in Antarctica but visits over the school holidays which start at the end of June. The manager is keen to have 2 Igloos for use by the children during that time. I'm looking forward to seeing the first Igloos made by Penguin Fibreglass, who are upgrading some aspects of Igloo manufacture and I hope to receive some photos for inclusion in the next edition.

Anthea Wallhead

Front cover: AASTINO Igloo near the French Base Concordia, due to be officially opened next year.
Photo: John Storey, UNSW Physics Dept.

Back page: Another polarogramme kindly supplied by Klaus Pedersen, NZ



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Role

Much to my delight, I have, through my new ministry, retained responsibility for Antarctic Affairs. I intend to maintain an active and accessible role in supporting cooperative endeavours to advance the Antarctic sector's interests for the benefit of Tasmania and Australia.

Australian Airlink Developments

I congratulate the Australian Government and its Australian Antarctic Division on the recent announcement of the imminent delivery of two ski-equipped CASA 212 aircraft to support the Australian Antarctic Airlink. This is an important development in the evolution of Hobart as an International Antarctic Gateway.

The CASA 212 aircraft will be used on flights between continental stations and remote airfield locations in East Antarctica. These aircraft are expected to commence operations during the forthcoming Austral summer.

The introduction of this service completes the first stage in developing the required infrastructure for the Airlink, with preliminary work on the runway at Casey Station being completed during the previous 2003-04 season.

The second stage of the airlink, establishing the intercontinental services between Hobart and Casey, will further enhance the attractiveness of Hobart as an International Antarctic Gateway, providing Tasmania with greater opportunities to attract other national Antarctic programs that support research stations in East Antarctica.

Considering the benefit to Australia's Antarctic research efforts and the growth in the Tasmanian Antarctic sector which will flow from the airlink investment, it is disappointing the Australian Government's recent budget did not allocate specific additional funding to support the immediate purchase of the Falcon aircraft.

I take this opportunity to once again urge the Australian Government to reassess its funding for the AAD in order to proceed with the Falcon proposal and not to delay the implementation of the intercontinental airlink.

Antarctic Midwinter Festival

Welcome to David Laskey, the new Festival Director of the Antarctic Midwinter Festival. David has brought a fresh look and feel to the event. New imagery has been developed to help convey Hobart's and Tasmania's unique Antarctic connections, and an exciting program of both new and favourite events will be offered throughout Hobart over the ten-day festival period.

Finally, I congratulate the Antarctic community for the generous and continued support for the Antarctic Midwinter Festival. Whilst the Tasmanian Government provides seed-funding, it is the Antarctic community that matches this funding and hosts a broad range of events for the benefit of the community and visitors to our State. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Antarctic Midwinter Festival during 18-27 June 2004.

Lara Giddings MHA

Minister for Economic Development

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
ANTARCTIC MIDWINTER FESTIVAL EVENTS
18-27 JUNE 2004
SEE WWW.ANTARCTIC-TASMANIA.INFO**



This year's Federal Budget contains a number of important initiatives which will enhance Australia's involvement in Antarctica. And the Federal Government has committed to spend \$88.6 million on the Antarctic in 2004-05.

Australia will maintain its various obligations under the Antarctic Treaty and other international conventions to promote valuable research and environmental protection measures, whilst continuing to pursue appropriate development programs.

These programs include activities like waste removal and the remediation of redundant work sites; studies into fisheries management; the introduction of renewable energy technology through wind turbines at Mawson Station; and implementing strong measures to combat the illegal fishing of the Patagonian Toothfish.

The esteemed Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, based in Hobart, will receive further funding of \$4.3 million in 2004-05, and will continue to play a critical role in scientific and research programs that have global significance.

And the Australian Government continues to develop the intercontinental air link, despite no funding allocation in this year's budget. Dr Sharman Stone, the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the Australian Antarctic Division, recently confirmed that the project is "under active consideration", and Tasmanian Senator Eric Abetz explained that the Australian Government is "fully committed" to the air link, "...but all options together with accurate costings need to be undertaken."

These various programs and initiatives are of great importance to Australia's ongoing Antarctic program, but also confirm our significant commitment and contribution to the region in terms of research and responsible development.

Earlier this month Dr Sharman Stone opened an exhibition at Parliament House, Canberra, paying tribute to the men and women who have contributed to the development of Mawson station, the oldest, continuously operating station in Antarctica.

Dr Stone has described the exhibition as displaying the many facets of life and work at Mawson station over the past 50 years. The display includes various themes, such as; Establishment, National Pride, Traverses, Huskies, Wildlife, Weather, Atmospheric Research, Aircraft, and The Expeditioners - who have made it all possible!

The exhibition closes on 30th May 2004.

Will Hodgman MHA
Shadow Minister for Antarctic Tasmania

THE HUSKIES PICNIC
ROYAL TASMANIAN BOTANICAL GARDENS
10.00 AM – 4.00 PM, SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2004
A FAMILY FUN DAY
*with fine food and music, the Muttley Crew Dog Troupe,
Kenji Ogawa ice sculptures, dog sledding and Taiko Drummers*

TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The TPN's Strategic Plan for 2004/2005 is now in its final stages of preparation. It consolidates many issues and initiatives already made by the Network. There are six key strategies embodied within it to which I draw attention:

1. Identifying New Business Opportunities
 - Identify current and emerging demands for cold region goods and services with a view to opening new markets and opportunities for internationally competitive Australian firms.
2. Building Capacity and Promoting the State's Capabilities
 - Promote and improve the State's capacity to satisfy current and emerging demands for cold climate goods and services to encourage higher levels of spending and investment in Tasmania,
3. Attracting New Nations and Organisations
 - Attracting new Antarctic nations and organisations to establish their base for Antarctic operations in Hobart.
4. Commercialising Antarctic Research & Development (R&D)
 - Work closely with institutional members to identify new opportunities for realising the wider economic potential of Antarctic R&D.
5. Increase Hobart's Antarctic Profile in the General Community
 - Increase the profile of Hobart's Antarctic community, opportunities and services amongst the general public to encourage a greater sense of public ownership and pride in the State's Antarctic links and history and its associated firms and institutions.
6. Strengthening the Network
 - Actively strengthen the Network,
 - a) By encouraging a sense of community between members of the Network and a spirit of cooperative competition to optimise the collective Tasmanian 'pitch' for new cold climate business.
 - b) Promote the benefits of TPN membership to a wider range of Australian organisations as a means to increase the overall influence and prominence of the Network within Australia and globally.

These key strategies represent a very useful point of reference for our actions in the year ahead. They are all drawn from our past activities and represent a continuum of directed and concentrated attention.

Over the past quarter we have seen a lot of work done towards this year's Midwinter Festival with a bevy of activities and attractions planned, all with a focus on the Antarctic and Southern Oceans. I encourage everyone to plan to participate as widely as possible as well as 'talking it up' with friends and associates. I expect this year's event will be even bigger and better than last year.

The Hobart-Antarctic Airlink has been in the news lately due to the fact that the two CASA 212's on order to Skytraders have now rolled off the assembly line in Spain and are in the process of having their skis fitted in Canada before flying to Australia. The CASA 212's are to provide the intra-continental airlink in Antarctica which will take expeditioners from the inter-continental arrival point near Casey Base to their points of interest on the continent. I understand that there is a real chance that one of these machines will be in Hobart in time to be a focal point for the Midwinter Festival. If so, it will be great to see this first real hard evidence of the reality of the Airlink.

The Airlink has also attracted degree of public comment and concern due to the fact that the Falcon jet required to make the inter-continental link between Hobart and Antarctica/Casey Base was not funded by in the recently released Federal Budget. However, Senator Abetz for the Federal Government has assured us that the Jet link from Australia is a firm commitment and that the delay in funding commitment is related only to ongoing investigations regarding jet capabilities. At the time of writing we are also seeking the Opposition's commitment to the inter-continental Airlink.

PEG PUTT'S MESSAGE



I have been intrigued by the latest awareness-raising tool for the protection of the albatross - the Big Bird race. No doubt Polar Network members have noticed that electronically tagged albatrosses are being tracked as they depart Tasmanian waters for South Africa, and punters can bet on their favourite.

Threats posed by nature and by man as these magnificent birds travel the Southern and Indian Oceans are starkly illustrated. Celebrities have 'adopted' particular birds, and apparently Jerry Hall's favourite met its end halfway across the Indian Ocean, believed to have been hooked by illegal longline fishing for Patagonian toothfish. Others have perished in bad weather, reminding us of the long journey and tremendous natural risks encountered by these amazing creatures.

Meanwhile down on the Antarctic continent Australia has been playing its part in attempting to look after the environment of this great wilderness. How pleasing to see wind turbines beginning to replace oil-fired power generation. Minimising the risk of oil spills is important, and we can also feel good about reducing our impact on global warming - every little bit helps.

Equally satisfying is that we are taking a strong leadership role in cleaning up the continent, removing some fairly unpleasant old rubbish. It has taken careful study and a deal of expertise to accomplish the task in this unique environment.

Perhaps a looming issue for when the new air service gets up and running is the need to reassess our Base infrastructure. As lightweight air deployment of scientific personnel becomes feasible there should be an opportunity to cut back on the size of our Bases, thus reducing our footprint on the Antarctic a little. Or are we too obsessed with empire building to have begun to think of this?

Best regards to all those involved in the fascinating array of Antarctic endeavour, including the ACE CRC at the University of Tasmania whose valuable work has been funded following an all party delegation to Canberra lobbying in support.

Peg Putt MHA
Greens Leader

PS. A friend returning from time spent on Heard Island reported visiting Putt Ridge - named after my father Colin who has climbed Big Ben, whilst I can only dream of such a challenging adventure!

TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (continued)

Final arrangements are in hand for the TPN's Trade Mission to Bremen in association with the SCAR/SCALOP Conference there in July. As previously advised, Judith Hennessey of Aurora Designs and Chris Boucher of Barking Spider will be our representatives in Bremen and I again encourage all Members to ensure they are both well briefed on our respective corporate capabilities and availabilities.

The Network's work towards a carefully considered position on Antarctic Tourism continues to make progress with strong support from Tony Hughson. It is important that, when this preliminary work is complete, we then get a high level of participation from all TPN Members in the forum(s) we will organise for this purpose.

Bill Lawson.
20/5/04.

ANTARCTIC TASMANIA



Congratulations to Greg Mortimer, who has been permanently appointed to the position of Deputy Secretary with the Department of Economic Development. Greg has been acting in this position since July 2003. We wish Greg well in this new position and thank him for the significant contributions he provided to the Antarctic agenda during his time as Director of Antarctic Tasmania.

Antarctic Tasmania, in conjunction with members of the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) executive, recently hosted a visit from David Hopper, the United States Consul General in Melbourne, and Captain Bill Cameron, the Defence Attaché at the United States' Embassy in Canberra. Their successful visit provided an opportunity for representatives from the Tasmanian Antarctic sector to strengthen the state's connections with those providing input into the United States' Antarctic activities.

Final preparations for the 2004 Antarctic Midwinter Festival (AMF) are now firmly established. Festival Director David Laskey has assembled an exciting program for this year's festival that includes a number of new events. Highlights of the new program include ice sculptures, a giant super-screen that will be set-up in Salamanca Square, and giant penguin puppets that will be paraded at the launch of the festival and at other events. Fun activities for this year's AMF begin during the school holidays where children can help create the giant penguins at a series of Community Art Workshops.

Brett Dackiewicz from Antarctic Tasmania has also been busy with preparations for this year's AMF. He will act as Volunteer Coordinator during the festival and will plan the volunteer assistance activities. In addition, this year's AMF has new imagery that will contribute to reinforce Hobart's close Antarctic links with our icy Southern Ocean neighbour. Take a look at this new imagery and the full program of events for the 2004 AMF on the festival website at www.antarctic-tasmania.info.

Antarctic Tasmania and representatives from the TPN are finalising their preparations for attending the 2004 Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs/ Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (COMNAP/SCAR) biannual trade forum in Bremen, Germany. Representatives from the TPN will have a stand at the trade forum and host functions targeting key nations that conduct operations in East Antarctica. In addition, the TPN's CD-Rom, *The Way South*, which promotes the Tasmanian Antarctic sector, will be updated. Together with a promotional calendar and bookmark, it will further contribute to promoting the state's Antarctic capabilities.

In late May and early June 2004, I will be part of the Australian Delegation at the annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM). This year, the ATCM is being held in Cape Town, South Africa, and it provides a forum to discuss key issues and strengthen international cooperation between all the nations conducting activities in Antarctica. After returning from this meeting, I will be in *full swing* for the AMF.

Ben Galbraith
Acting General Manager
Antarctic Tasmania

THE ANTARCTIC MIDWINTER DINNER

HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR

SATURDAY 19 JUNE 2004

BOOKINGS AT TSO BOX OFFICE

Follows the **Phillip Law Lecture** – Antarctic Tourism Past, Present and Future – by Greg Mortimer, OAM
at 6.00pm in the Federation Concert Hall

Hosted by Tim Bowden, with Billy Whitton and the Swingin Hepcats

MACQUARIE MEMORIES NO.1 (cont.) by Peter Ford

There were few activities one could do when work was finished. One of these was walking. The island is about 30 km long and its length could be walked in two days, or one day in summer when the days were 20 hours long. Typically, one would walk to Green Gorge on the first day and to Hurd Point on the second.

The east coast was the most hospitable for walking, there being navigable beaches for half the way to Green Gorge. Past a place called Brothers Point, the island terrain rose sharply from the sea and coastal walking was essentially impossible. Then we would have to climb the steep slopes and walk along the edge of the coastal ridge. The slopes were dirt and fractured rock with hardy Poa grass tussocks clinging to the soil. These tussocks were well anchored and could be used as hand and foot holds. Otherwise things could have been quite difficult, as the constantly wet conditions did nothing for the firmness of the slopes. Because we did not want to climb straight up to the top, we would gradually traverse the slopes as we climbed, maintaining some forward motion.

During these traverses, we would have to cross some scree slopes. A scree slope is a long and wide strip of small rock and gravel on the side of the hill at the maximum angle that gravity will allow. Any more material on the strip will cause a general movement of the slope, much like an avalanche. We found that these could be crossed by running like mad slightly uphill, to compensate for the downward movement caused by our presence. However, the scree slopes finish at a cliff and watching the scree fall off the edge of the cliff spurred one to greater efforts. Bad as this sounds, it was preferable to climbing up the hillside to go round it.

Approaching Green Gorge, we descended into what looked like a pleasant flat grassland. Looks were deceiving. This grassland, complete with a rabbit population, was vegetation, a foot or so thick, floating on the lake. A foot or so was average; in some places it was much thinner. Judging whether it would support our weight was mostly chance. In some areas, you would gradually sink if you stopped moving. On one trip, one man went through up to his shoulders, supported only by his backpack. While crossing, we would come across an open section of flowing water. Mostly these could be jumped, but with difficulty, especially with a backpack. All in all, an exciting traverse. The alternative was to circumnavigate the edge of the lake, but we were always trying to save time.

Next to the outlet of the lake, near the sea, was our accommodation, a large packing crate! It was better than sleeping out in the open, but not much. It was fitted with bunks and a small shelf for the cooking stove.



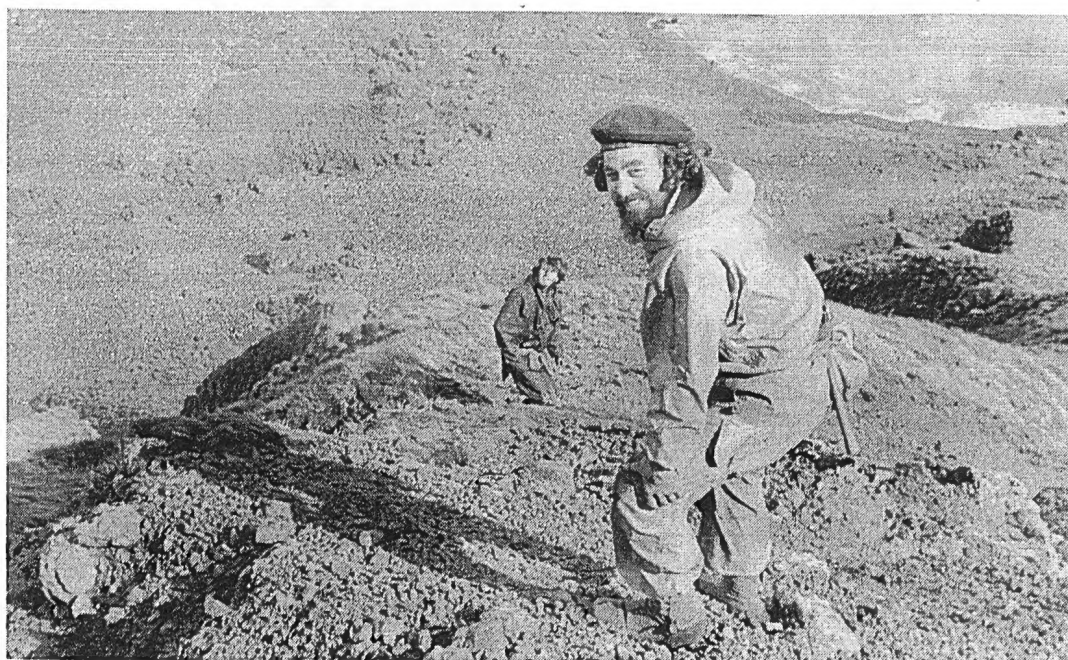
Left: Green Gorge Hut. Photo: Peter Ford.

The next stop was at Lusitania Bay, which was only reached by an inland route. The accommodation was the same. Once, while this site was being restocked during the annual crew changeover, the amphibious DUKW became stranded on a rock and was abandoned. About a month after the changeover, some of us thought that we might be able to rescue the DUKW since it could have been washed off the rock by then. When we got there, we found that, indeed, it was now on the shore. However, it was entirely full of rocks and almost buried and well beyond our limited ability to extract it. So we did not have a DUKW to play with during our year. We should have gone there earlier.



Climbing rocky outcrops. Photo: Peter Ford

Hurd Point was the site of a very large penguin rookery at end of the island and the trip to it from Lusitania Bay could be undertaken along the coast. It was a difficult trip because we would have to climb up and down a series of rocky outcrops separated by short beaches. The outcrop sides were quite steep and about two to four metres high. Laborious going, but it was a change from the usual island route. On one occasion two scientists and myself were accompanied on the trip by one of the wireless operators. He was having a good trip until we reached Hurd Point and were deciding how to go back. We wanted to go back by climbing the steep slope to the top of the island and take the easy stroll to Lusitania Bay. However, we discovered that our wireless man had acrophobia. We really did not want to repeat the coastal trip, and spent a lot of time trying to convince him that it was safe to go up. The climb would be the usual type, clinging onto *Poa* grass clumps to retain our footing. Eventually we managed to get him to make this climb by having two of us holding his arms while I followed up behind with a hand on his back. We were quite pleased with him in that he attempted to overcome his fears. I think that he was very pleased with himself too.



Going down to Hurd Point Rookery (background, all penguins!) Photo: Peter Ford



NEW INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

The Australian Antarctic Division has recently installed a web-based asset management system which allows the AAD to receive up-to-date information about their Kingston-based assets, as well as all infrastructure services, such as water supply, sewerage disposal, heating, lighting and satellite radio links at their Antarctic stations.

Called Maximo 5.1, the system was installed over the last nine months by MRO Software Australia-New Zealand. The AAD is the first Australian customer and assets at Casey, Mawson, Macquarie Island and Kingston are now inter-linked. Reports are generated every week with a summary of maintenance completed, repairs, parts and supplies required.

POLAR WIRELESS STATION REUSED

Coast Radio Hobart recently moved into an old radio station on the Domain, near Hobart. The building was first used by the Postmaster General's Department as a link to Antarctic expeditioners 92 years ago and was only the second government-owned coastal radio station in Australia.

ALL AURORAS

TPN member Judy Hennessey of Aurora Designs met up with other Aurora businesses in March this year. The solar-powered car *Aurora*, which is partly sponsored by Aurora Energy, was on show with its team near *RSV Aurora Australis* at Princes Wharf, and the team tried on some of Judy's polar clothing range for publicity photos. *Aurora* was also the name of Mawson's ship, which docked in Hobart in 1911.

ANTARCTIC STAMPS PLUS

In addition to the recent AAT ANARE Station First Day covers, Australia Post has issued a commemorative silver coin for Mawson Station's 50th Anniversary. It features a coloured image of Mawson station with an Emperor penguin chick in the foreground.

The March 2004 edition of the ANARE Club Journal, *AURORA*, has an article about Australian Antarctic Stamps from May 1992 – Feb. 2004. The first list, showing stamps up to 1991, were shown in the March 1991 edition. A publication containing all Australian Antarctic stamps has been proposed.

AIRLINK

AAD's application for funding the Hobart-Casey station airlink has failed again this year, although the Federal Government has given assurances of commitment. The runway requires work over two years on a snow-cap before Falcon 900 jets can land and the suitability of these planes is now being considered. As well as continuing to limit intercontinental access to Casey and other major Australian bases this delay means possible charter operations, enabling scientists from China, Japan, Russia, Italy, Estonia and France, are also on hold.

WORD LINK

As a way to vary routine station life, Imogen Pearce and Tim Edwards at Davis station have challenged friends in Hobart to complete the Sunday Tasmanian newspaper's giant crossword without dictionaries or other help. When Imogen and Tim are back in Hobart, the pair that has the most correct answers wins a round of beer from the losers.

PLANS FOLD

The former site of Antarctic Adventure in Salamanca Square will not be developed as The Taste Temptation by the Echo Advisory Board, because the State Government would not accept the Board's financial offer for the site. Apparently, 20 other parties have expressed interest in developing a tourism/conference or cinema facility.

ANOTHER OFF-SEASON RESCUE

A US Air Force C-141 Starlifter flew from California to McMurdo Station in Antarctica to pick up 3 sick men and fly them to Christchurch NZ for medical attention. Medevac planes seem to be used more and more frequently for emergency flights to rescue Americans in Antarctica, when flying conditions are riskier, whereas Australian researchers and staff rarely need this service.

ICE MAIDEN TREK

Three women are preparing to walk to the South Pole next summer, in order to realise long-held dreams and to be seen as role models to other women. Michele Bloomcamp, Noelene Weightman and Sandra Floate will leave for Antarctica in October and attempt the 1200 km trek hauling sleds of food and equipment.



Celebrating Tasmania's connection with the Antarctic continent.

Tasmania's connections with the Antarctic continent go back to only a few short years after the first permanent settlement in 1804. In 1840 the ships HMS *Erebus* and *Terror* departed Hobart to explore deep into the southern ocean and begin an historic link with that incredible continent that continues to this day. Hobart has long been the port of choice for numerous Antarctic Expeditions including Sir Douglas Mawson's famous 1911-1914 journey and it was from Hobart in 1912 that Roald Amundsen telegraphed the world to confirm that his historic trip to reach the South Pole had been successful.

Now at the beginning of the 21st century we can see the Tasmanian links not only still in existence but getting stronger with an increased presence of polar shipping in the port of Hobart. Recently in fact there were as many as four polar vessels using Hobart as the launch pad for journeys to the continent.

But the 2004/2005 polar season will see another new and far more significant connection between Australia's southern most state and that is the introduction of intercontinental flights. For the first time we will see the introduction of regular flights using highly specialised planes that will be used to ferry expeditioners from Hobart to and around the continent.

The **Antarctic Midwinter Festival**, now in its fourth year, provides us with an opportunity to get in touch with these historic and contemporary connections. You can board a real Antarctic icebreaker, get close and furry with a true working Huskie and then see polar transport in the new millennium by viewing the amazing aircraft that will take expeditioners around the continent in years to come. If you want more history then on one of our historic tours you can see the room where Roald Amundsen slept or visit the docks where so many historic Antarctic vessels have departed.

The **Antarctic Midwinter Festival** from 18 – 27 June is here to connect you with Antarctica! You can learn more about this amazing continent and how Tasmanians are involved daily in ensuring that vital research continues on the coldest and most remote continent on earth.

The festival kicks off with the launch of **The Longest Night Film Festival**, the only film festival dedicated to presenting film from Polar Regions and extreme environments. You can see documentaries and feature films that explore regions few of us will ever get to visit. Many have a strong Tasmanian connection and the program will include an Australian Premiere, and even a World Premiere plus Q & A sessions.

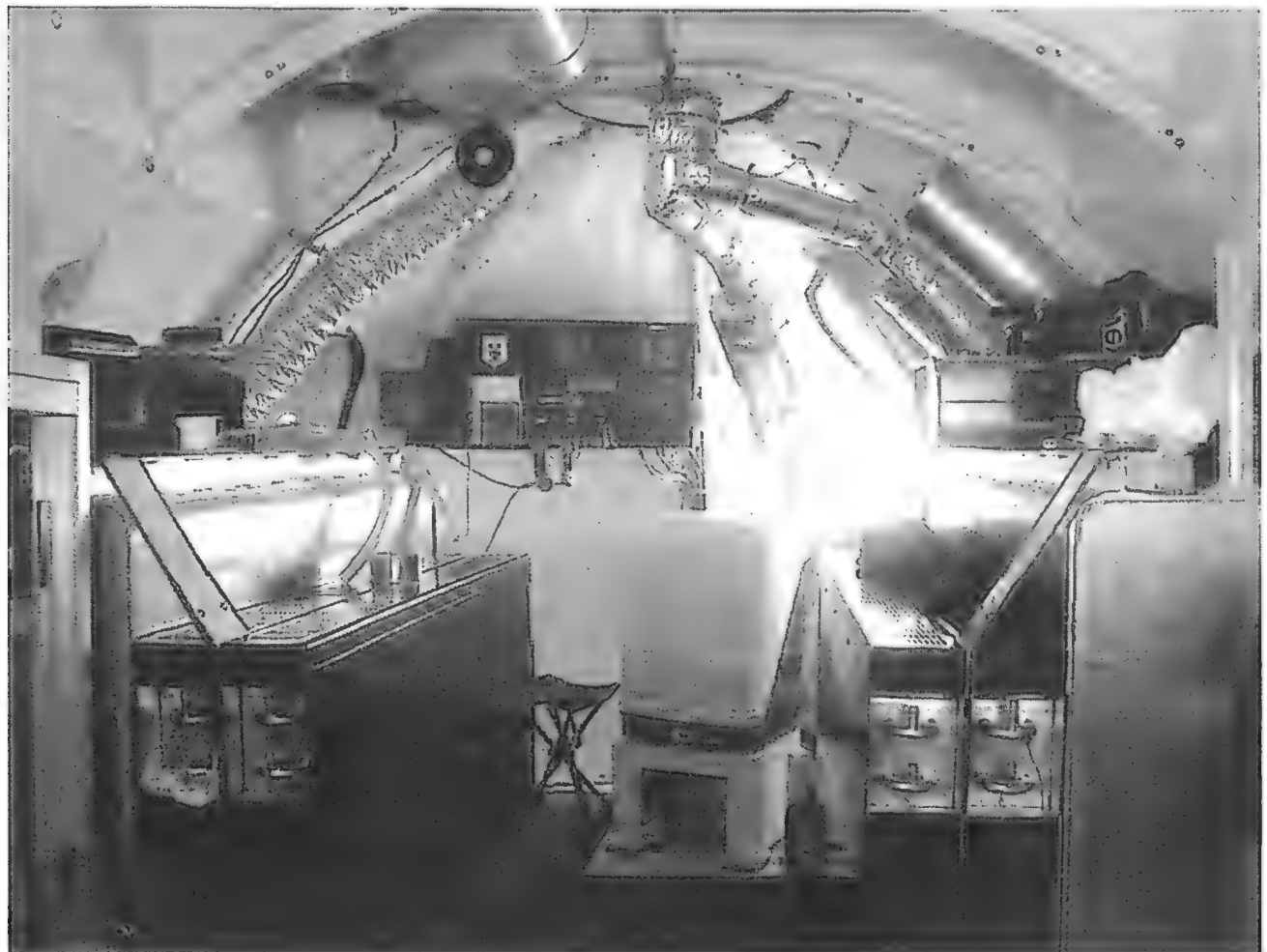
You can then join us for the famous **Antarctic Midwinter Dinner**, where your host author and Tasmania's Honorary Antarctic Ambassador, Tim Bowden will present a superb dinner and anecdotes from times past at this much anticipated event. Prior to dinner why not listen to Greg Mortimer OAM deliver the **Phillip Law Lecture** in the presence of the legend himself at the Hotel Grand Chancellors Federation Concert Hall.

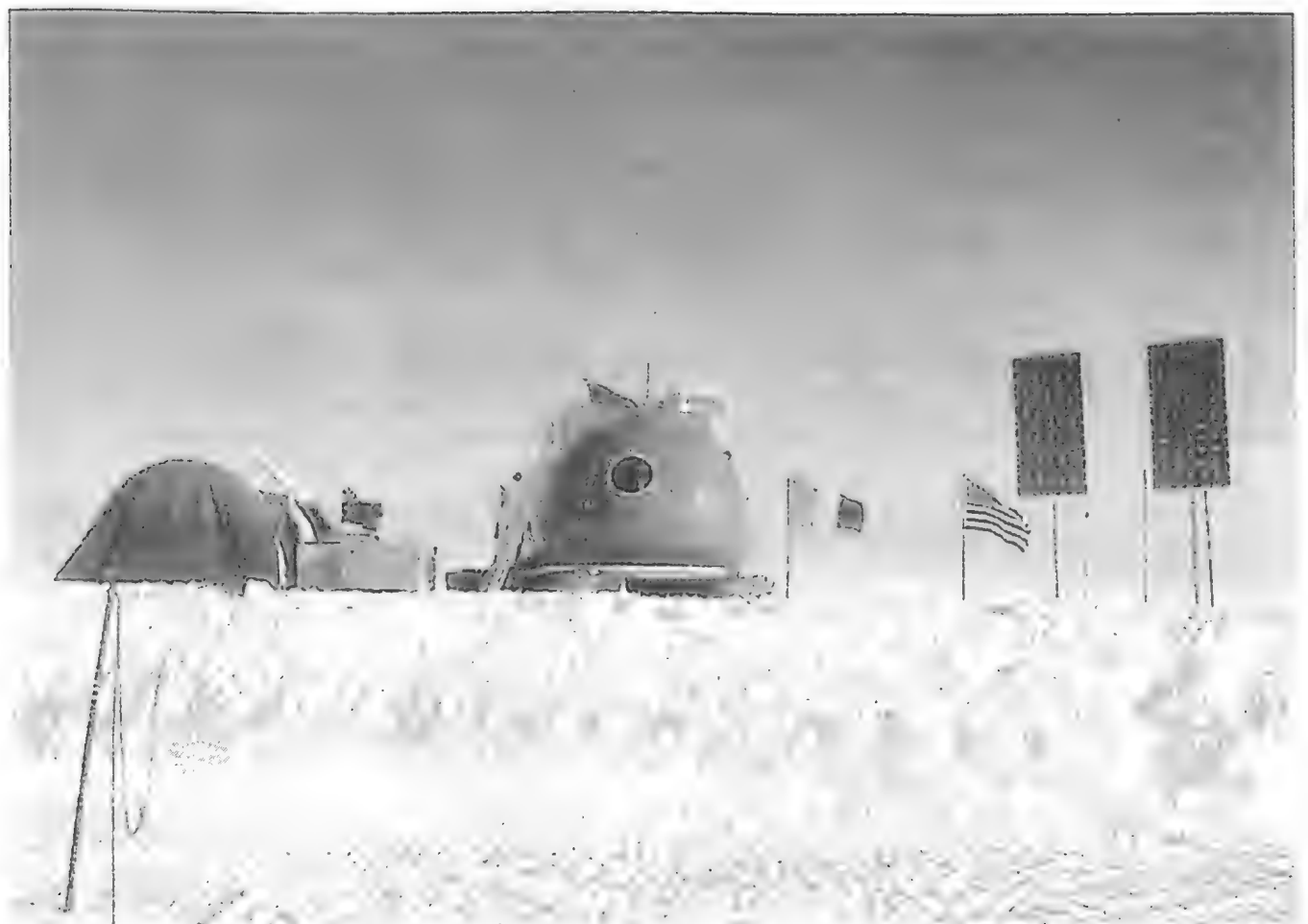
View superb Antarctic images for free on the huge **Trafalgar Carpark Super Screen**, including excellent virtual tours and other multimedia, and enjoy watching the our 3 metre penguin puppets while listening to the sounds of the Hobart City Councils Cold Fingers Music. You could fit in a symphony concert from the world-renowned Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra or see Japanese Ice Sculptor Kenji Ogawa do his thing with a block of ice. Don't forget the popular Aurora Australis open day at Princes Wharf too! These events, exhibitions and many more activities await you and your family this year, making the Antarctic Midwinter Festival a festival with a difference.

See the festival web site at www.antarctic-tasmania.info or contact David Laskey the Festival Director at david.laskey@development.tas.gov.au for more information. For information on The Longest Night Film Festival visit www.longestnightfilmfestival.com or contact the Manager, Angela Armstrong at angela.armstrong@screen.tas.gov.au Grab your FREE copy of the festival supplement in the *Sunday Tasmanian* on 13 June for all the details. Programs will be available from all Service Tasmania and Tasmanian Visitor Information Centres from early June.



Dome C astronomical observatory closed on 7th February 2003. AASTINO (Automated Astrophysical Site-Testing International Observatory) has been operating fully un-attended since then. Based on an Igloo Satellite Cabin, the AASTINO was designed by the School of Physics UNSW during 2002. All photos by Tony Travouillon UNSW. Thanks to Professor John Storey UNSW for information and resources.







As you may know, the ACE CRC is supported under the Commonwealth Government's Cooperative Research Centre Programme.

This program has been in the news a lot over the past few weeks, as the outcomes of the recent bid process have become known.

"The CRC program is first and foremost an industry program", Minister for Science, Peter McGauran, said on the ABC's 7:30 Report. A good idea isn't worth anything, unless you sell it, or implement it, Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane told the Australian.

The message is quite clear: CRCs must demonstrate their value to Australia and must do more to engage industry sectors.

The ACE CRC focuses on issues of global climate change, sea level rise, greenhouse gases and the consequences of climate change for Antarctic ecosystems. These are globally critical issues and the CRC's work to produce better predictions of their impacts will have enormous benefit for Australia. Clearly, we must do our best to ensure that these benefits are captured and realised.

The ACE CRC is committed to exploring the commercial opportunities from our work and to better documenting the economic national benefits of our activities, through providing advice to industry and state and national policy. One of the major steps we have taken towards this goal is the recent appointment of Christie le Goy as Commercial Development Manager.

Christie, who is supported by the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, has been reaching out to many people within the Antarctic and Southern Ocean communities since she started work in January.

She also has been meeting with representatives from industries that are not directly related to the Antarctic community but that will benefit from the work of ACE CRC. For instance, the insurance industry will have an improved ability to forecast risk using the knowledge developed by our Climate Variability and Change and Sea Level Rise programs. Christie has begun approaching executives from the industry to identify their key issues regarding the impacts of climate change, and to explore how ACE CRC can best assist them.

Christie also arranged a two-day commercialisation workshop with sponsorship from the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, which was attended by some of the ACE CRC's key researchers, as well as the administration team.

This workshop provided a valuable insight into the world of science commercialisation - what is it, how to protect valuable intellectual property, how to identify potential partners and when to start talking to the market. One of the most valuable lessons was that the road is often rocky and very often long.

The next stage of this process is a Commercial Opportunity Audit, being planned by Christie, which will identify research within the ACE CRC with commercial potential. She is also very interested in making contact with people who may have ideas about the industrial application of ACE CRC work. If you do have an idea, please contact Christie le Goy on tel. 03 6226 2375 or e-mail christie.legoy@acecrc.org.au.

Prof. Bruce Mapstone
CEO. ACE CRC

RUSSIAN POLAR PATHWAYS

Text and photos by Irina Karmanovskaia unless stated.

I would like to share with the readers of "Ice Breaker" some moments relating to Antarctica during my trip to Russia which was undertaken in March 2004.

My first stop was Arkhangelsk (65° North, 40° West). Founded in the XVI century, it was the only port of call of the first English ships sailing to Russia with the aim of political and trade contacts at that time. It is situated approximately 1000 km to the North of Moscow near the mouth of the river Northern Dvina which opens into the White Sea and is known as the "Gateway to the Arctic".

Besides the pleasure of visiting my parents and friends, I had the privilege of acquainting myself with the funds in the *Museum of Arkhangelsk Maritime College*. The museum, which was organized by Gennadiy Popov, a former officer and well-known writer, is a unique establishment that contains photographs, letters and documents associated with the Maritime College and its students. There is a collection of documents regarding the history of the Northern Sea Route and Arctic and Antarctic exploration documents, including those concerning one of the first Russians* to land on the Antarctic continent, a former student of the Maritime College *Alexander Kuchin* (1888-1912). Being an experienced sailor, Kuchin had been accepted into the 2nd year of the Arkhangelsk Maritime College in 1904 to study oceanography under the supervision of the College Director, Colonel Bespalov. During this period he frequently worked on sealing schooners in Norway, which historically had close trade relations with Northern Russia. In 1907 at the age of 18 he published a small Russian-Norwegian dictionary containing 4000 words in the "Pomor" publishing house in Norway. It is perhaps one of the first dictionaries of its kind. Alexander graduated from the College with a gold medal in 1909.

* The others were Anton Omelchenko and Dmitriy Gorev who went South with Robert Scott's last expedition.

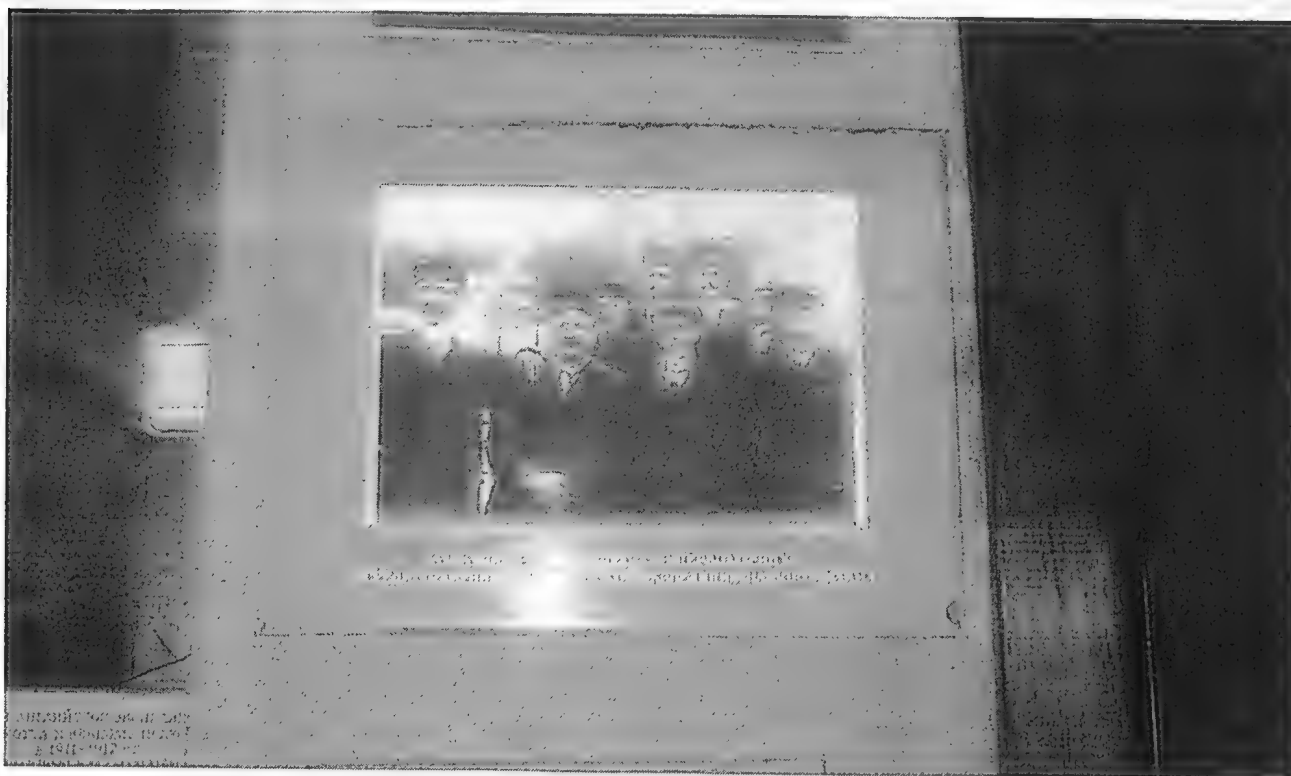


Mr. Gennadiy Popov in the Museum of Arkhangelsk Maritime College.

After graduating, Kuchin again went to Norway, this time to study oceanography in Bergen under Professor Helland-Hansen, head of the Bergen biological station. During his time there, he became acquainted with the famous Norwegian explorer of Polar Regions, Fridtjof Nansen. Both Helland-Hansen and Nansen later recommended Kuchin to Roald Amundsen as an outstanding and talented oceanographer. Consequently, Kuchin became the sole foreigner in Amundsen's Antarctic expedition of 1910-1912, undertaking oceanographic studies on board the "Fram". Kuchin notes in a letter dated 29 April 1910 addressed to his father and sisters in Russia that he "will try to work hard so that Amundsen will not regret taking a foreigner with him, let alone a Russian..." (This letter is displayed in the Museum).

My next stop was Saint Petersburg at the *Russian State Naval Archives*, founded in 1724, containing documents of Russian naval history from the end of the 17th century until 1940. The documents are mainly originals - a unique collection of maps, drafts of ships, personal files of naval officers, documents about navigators, explorers and scientists such as Vitus Bering (his Great Northern Expedition was the first to chart out the Northern coastlines of Europe and Asia from the White Sea to the mouth of the River Kolyma, the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk and of Kamchatka in 1733-1743), Ivan Krusenstern, Thaddeus Bellingshausen and many others. The Director Dr. Vladimir Sobolev and the staff of the Archives were very helpful and did their best to assist me in my research. I was particularly excited to peruse the original log books of the corvette "Boyarin" which visited Hobart in June 1870. But that is another story...

I met some fascinating people in *The Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute* in Saint Petersburg and am very grateful to Dr. Sergey Priamikov, head of the Department of International Scientific Cooperation and Dr. Lev Savatyugin, head of the Polar geography department (he is the author of many books, among them one which will be published in 2004 entitled "Russian Science in Antarctica", which covers the history of Russian Antarctic research and exploration during the last 50 years), for the time they spent with me during my stay at the Institute. Dr. Priamikov was happy to receive a copy of the "The Way South" CD and other TPN information and is looking forward to cooperation and further contacts with the Antarctic community in Tasmania. Marina Dorozhkina, a scientist of the Institute who had just returned from the Russian Federation's Bellingshausen Antarctic station supplied me with photographs and news of the Orthodox church building made from logs, which was transported from Russia, assembled and consecrated in February of this year.



Amundsen's Antarctic expedition, Alexander Kuchin – second from right.

I had never previously visited the *Russian State Museum of the Arctic and Antarctic* in Saint Petersburg and was surprised to see such a fine collection of artifacts, models of famous ships, photographs, original documents and rich library. The museum is located in a former two-storied church and has three separate sections devoted to Arctic history, Antarctic history and the 70-year history of the Northern Sea Route, which began with the voyage of the icebreaker-steamship "Sibiryakov" in 1932. The ship covered the Arctic route from West to East in one navigation period. This was accomplished by a crew from Arkhangelsk headed by Captain Voronin, a graduate of the Arkhangelsk Maritime College. I met with the Director of the Museum, Victor Boyarskiy, a Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, and an author of several books of poetry and prose. He is famous for being a member of the International Trans-Antarctic ski expedition of August 1989 – March 1990. Six members from Great Britain, China, USSR, USA, France and Japan with 36 dogs harnessed into sledges covered 6500 km from the West to the East of Antarctica in 220 days at elevations of up to 3500 m and at temperatures as low as -50° C. It was the first time that Antarctica been crossed without using mechanized equipment.

I found my trip extremely useful in forging new contacts with the Antarctic community in Russia, and hope that these contacts can be further nurtured and widened. Hopefully, the release of the "Way South" CD in Russian will be helpful in letting our colleagues in Russia find out more about Hobart as our "Gateway to the Antarctic".



Builders of the Russian Orthodox Church at Bellinghausen Station, Antarctica. Photo: Marina Dorozhkina.



BOOKS

NATIONAL MARINE ATLAS

- This free publication was launched in April 2004 at the Coast to Coast conference in Hobart. It contains nearly 60 maps showing shipwrecks, lighthouses, chemical waste dumps and whale paths. Available also on CD-Rom and Internet. Contact National Oceans Office in Hobart at www.oceans.gov.au.

IN THE GHOST COUNTRY: A LIFETIME SPENT ON THE EDGE by Peter Hillary and John E. Elder. Published by Random house. Price: \$32.95.

- Describes the unsuccessful trek made to cross Antarctica by Hillary, Jon Muir and Eric Phillips in an attempt to retrace Robert Falcon Scott's fatal journey.

SHIPS OF WOOD & MEN OF IRON by Gerard Kenney. Published by University of Regina Canadian Plains Research Centre. Price: Unknown.

- A Norwegian-Canadian saga of High Arctic exploration and territorial claims, particularly the activities of famous polar explorer Otto Sverdrup and the crew aboard the *FRAM* between 1898 and 1902.

THIS EVERLASTING SILENCE: The Love Letters of Paquita Delprat and Douglas Mawson 1911-1914 edited by Nancy Robinson Flannery. Published by Melbourne University. Price: \$29.95.

BOOKS FOR SALE

- First Editions of some of the classics of Antarctic Books. Contact Assistant Editor of Aurora Magazine on (03) 9898 4906 or email M.Kirton@bigpond.com

MAGAZINES

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC MAGAZINE: IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. NO. 6, AUTUMN.

- Edited by Elizabeth Haywood, AAD, this well illustrated, free publication covers a very comprehensive range of Antarctic operations and activities carried out by the Antarctic Division over the past year.



The Russian Orthodox Church at Bellingshausen Station, Antarctica. Photo: Father Kallistrat.



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AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

The public has been invited to comment on Hobart International Airport's Master Plan from May 5, 2004 to August 3, 2004. Copies of the document are available for inspection and purchase (\$11) at HIAPL's office, from 9.00 am -5.00 pm weekdays. Details of the Master Plan will also be put on <http://www.hobartairpt.com.au>.

BIRDS WEST

Of the 18 Shy Albatrosses electronically tagged so their flight from Tasmania to South Africa can be tracked by satellite and bets placed on the likely winner, 6 have stopped transmitting, although one that had been silent for 2 weeks recently started signalling again. Each bird is sponsored by a celebrity and any profits from punters will go to albatross conservation projects. The race can be followed via www.ladbrokes.com/bigbirdrace.

It is believed that some of lost albatrosses are victims of long-line fishing practices wherein baited hooks, on lines several kilometres long, tempt the birds to feed. Once hooked, seabirds are then dragged under and drowned.

AAD scientist, Graham Robertson, who recently won a Marine Conservation Fellowship from Miami's Pew Institute for Ocean Science, has developed one method of reducing this seabird by-catch. His newly developed long-line contains tiny lead weights, which means the line sinks quickly and limits the opportunity for birds to dive for the bait. Studies on similar lines to date show no effect on fish catches but a large reduction in seabird mortality.

CANADIAN SEAL SLAUGHTER

The Canadian Government has allowed 12,000 sealers to hunt and kill up to 350,000 harp seals this year. The seal population has reached 5.2 million and pelts are being sold for record prices. Despite the Government's bans on killing seals under 12 days old, when their pelt turns from white to grey, and regulations re killing seals more humanely, sealers have been observed clubbing the seals and removing pelts while the seals are still alive.

RED ON ICE

Two icebergs off Greenland have been dyed red by a Danish artist for his Ice Cube Project, and a

photograph taken in Iceland of a red sofa on ice is one of the images in a book called Red Couch.

STORMY WEATHER

Attention was recently drawn to the Bureau of Meteorology's linked 'Tasmanian and Antarctic weather and warnings' section of their website www.bom.gov.au. Senator Eric Abetz believed potential tourists to Tasmania would think both regions had similar weather conditions, so Tasmania and Antarctica are now separately listed.

Ice Breaker wrote to Senator Abetz pointing out the benefits of the original link in promoting Hobart as Australia's Antarctic capital and the forthcoming Antarctic Midwinter Festival, but the senator considers this is a separate issue to the weather link.

MAWSON'S HUT MINIATURE

According to the March edition of AURORA magazine, a 1/12 scale model of Mawson's Antarctic hut offered to the AAD has been rejected. Rod Mackenzie of Victoria took 8 months to create the model which has been on display at the Geelong Maritime Museum, the Sydney and Melbourne Miniature Shows and the Australia Post Gallery. It will later be housed at the Queenscliff Maritime Museum and photos will soon be available on www.anareclub.org.

NEW NEWS HARD TO FIND

Followers of online newsletters about Antarctic matters may be interested to know that *Ice Breaker* recently contacted journalist Andrew Darby, writer of 'The Antarctic'. This particular newsletter is currently on hold because 'original Antarctic news,' rather than links to existing news reports, is still difficult to source.

BUOY ON TOUR

Part of an Antarctic research buoy, deployed 14 years ago by the University of Hanover from the vessel *Polar Stern*, was found on the west coast of Tasmania this year. The buoy was originally put under water through a hole in ice in the Weddell Sea. Its electronics transmitted information for less than a year about water and air temperatures, as well as ice movements controlled by current and wind. After the ice had melted, the buoy continued to drift without being tracked and only the bottom part of it was recovered on the beach.

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POLAR CALENDAR



24	May	2004-	27 th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. Cape Town, South Africa.
4	June	2004	
11	June	2004	TPN meeting with the Governor of Tasmania, Richard Butler, to attend. 11.00am-1.00pm. Tasmanian Technopark, Dowsing Point, Glenorchy, Tas.
18-27	June	2004	Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival. Hobart, Tas. For further details, see www.antarctic-tasmania.info

MIDWINTER DINNERS AROUND AUSTRALIA

12	June	2004	Canberra, ACT. Ph (02) 6297 3708.
18	June	2004	Brisbane, Queensland. Ph. (07) 3371 8487.
18	June	2004	ANARE CLUB, Victoria. Ph. (03) 9555 7057.
?	June	2004	Townsville, Queensland. Ph. (07) 4779 8674.
19	June	2004	Hobart, Tasmania. See www.antarctic-tasmania.info/
?	June	2004	Perth, Western Australia. Ph. (08) 9398 4307.
26	June	2004	Adelaide, South Australia. Ph. (08) 8339 3351.
26	June	2004	Sydney, NSW. Ph. (02) 9980 4311.

29	June	2004-	International Whaling Commission meetings. Sorrento, Italy.
22	July	2004	
13-17	July	2004	International Symposium on Cold Region Development (ISCORD). Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. Contact: sasaki@decnet.or.jp
25-31	July	2004	COMNAP XVI and SCAR 28 Meetings. Bremen, Germany. Further details www.comnap16.org and www.scar28.org
10	September	2004	TPN AGM. Venue to be decided. Hobart, Tasmania.
25	October	2004-	CCAMLR XXIII meetings. Hobart, Tasmania.
5	November	2004	

NEW ANTARCTIC FLIGHTS

1	November	2004	Positioning flights by Skytrader's CASA-212 aircraft. Date of departure to Casey Base yet to be determined.
20	November	2004	CASA 212 to transfer expeditioners and cargo from Voyage I, AURORA AUSTRALIS, docked at Casey Base. Flights to Davis and Mawson bases to follow.
10	December	2004	CASA 212 to transfer expeditioners and cargo from V2 as above.
18	December	2004	CASA 212 to transfer expeditioners and cargo to V3 returning to Hobart.
18	February	2005	CASA 212 to transfer expeditioners and cargo to V5 returning to Hobart.
2	March	2005	CASA 212 returns to Hobart, end of season.

IN ADVANCE

12-15	July	2005	COMNAP XVII meetings. Sofia, Bulgaria.
	July	2006	COMNAP XVIII Meetings. Hobart, Tasmania.

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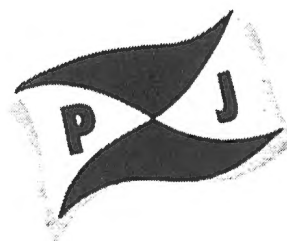
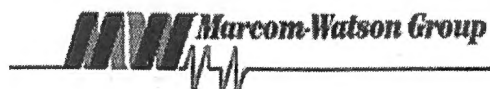
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ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

2-22	October	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart for Marine Science.
29	October	2004-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Casey Base.
3	November	2004		
7-12	November	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Marine Science.
22-24	November	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Arrives Hobart, departs for Davis Base.
24	November	2004	SP. OF ENDERBY V1.1	Departs Bluff, NZ, for Macquarie Is.
29-30	November	2004	SP. OF ENDERBY V1.1	Macquarie Island.
2-5	December	2004	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart, departs for Du. D'Urville.
7-14	December	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Davis Base.
9-12	December	2004	SP. OF ENDERBY V1.1	Arrives Dunedin, NZ, departs for Mac. Is.
11-27	December	2004	L'ASTROLABE	Dumont D'Urville.
17-18	December	2004	SP. OF ENDERBY V2.1	Macquarie Island.
26	December	2004	VASILY GOLOVNIN V4	Arrives Hobart, departs for Casey Base
27-29	December	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Fremantle, departs for Marine Sci.
29	December	2004	SP. OF ENDERBY V2.1	Arrives Dunedin, NZ
31	December	2004-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V3	Marine Science.
28	January	2005		
2-5	January	2005	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart, Departs for Du. D'Urville.
8-13	January	2005	VASILY GOLOVNIN V3	Casey Base.
11	January	2005-	L'ASTROLABE	Dumont D'Urville.
10	February	2005	L'ASTROLABE	
15	January	2005	SP. OF ENDERBY V4.1	Departs Bluff, NZ for Macquarie Island.
15	January	2005	KAP. KHEBNIKOV V4.2	Departs Hobart for Macquarie Island.
17-18	January	2005	SP. OF ENDERBY V4.1	Macquarie Island.
19-24	January	2005	VASILY GOLOVNIN V4	Davis Base.
27	January	2005-	VASILY GOLOVNIN V4	Mawson Base.
1	February	2005		

